

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-10 as follows:

1. A network comprising a plurality of network nodes,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least part of the network nodes  
are directly intercoupled via at least one star node,  
~~in that~~ the star node contains a plurality of star interfaces  
which are assigned to at least one network node and  
~~in that~~, in dependence on a pilot signal, one star interface always  
conveys a message from the assigned network node to the other star  
interfaces, or from another star interface to at least one of the  
assigned network nodes.

2. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein each network node in the network is  
assigned a certain periodically recurrent time section for the  
transmission of its messages and  
~~in that~~ a network node comprises a pilot signal generator which  
generates a pilot signal which denotes either the whole assigned  
time section or the beginning and end of the time section.

3. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ each star interface comprises a first  
and second switch element and a pilot signal detector,  
~~in that the first switch element in activated state is provided for~~  
allowing a message to pass from the assigned network node to the  
other star interfaces and the second switch element in activated  
state is provided for allowing a message to pass from the other  
star interfaces to the assigned network node and  
~~in that the pilot signal detector is provided for activating a~~  
first switch element and deactivating a second switch element or  
deactivating the first switch element and activating the second  
switch element in dependence on a pilot signal from the assigned  
network node.

4. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 3,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first and second switch elements  
are each a switchable amplifier.

5. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ a star interface is provided for  
generating a release signal when the assigned network node denotes  
a message transmission by a pilot signal, ~~in that the lines~~

conveying the release signal of each star interface are coupled via an OR combination and  
~~in that the OR combination transfers the release signal to all the~~  
star interfaces of the star node.

6. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 5,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the OR combination is an OR gate or a  
wired OR combination.

7. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 2,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one network node is assigned  
a plurality of star interfaces of which only one is provided for  
transferring messages in dependence on the state of the assigned  
network node.

8. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 7,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least one network node contains at  
least two pilot signal generators and two multiplexers for  
combining the pilot signal generated by the assigned pilot signal  
generator with a message, and  
~~in that a control unit decides over which line connection and over~~  
which assigned star interface the message combined with a pilot  
signal is transmitted.

9. (Currently Amended) A network as claimed in claim 8,  
~~characterized in that~~wherein the control unit is provided for  
testing the operability of the star interfaces, of the line  
connections, and of a circuit component, in the network node, which  
switch component forms the message with the pilot signal and  
receives such a message,  
~~in that~~ during the reception of the message the control unit checks  
the presence of the pilot signal on the various line connections by  
evaluating pilot signal detectors, and, during the transmission of  
the message, the presence of the pilot signal on all the line  
connections, except for the line connection that transmits the  
message that has been transmitted.

10. (Currently Amended) A network node in a network comprising  
further network nodes, ~~characterized~~  
~~in that~~wherein the network node is provided for coupling to further  
network nodes via at least one star node and  
~~in that~~ the network node is provided for indicating a transmission  
of a message to a star interface of the star node together with a  
pilot signal.

11. (Original) A star node in a network for coupling a plurality of network nodes to a plurality of star interfaces, which are assigned to at least one network node and which, in dependence on a pilot signal, are each provided for transferring a message from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces, or from another interface to at least one of the assigned network nodes.